

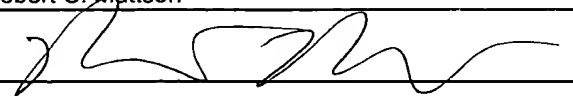


UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL <small>(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.52(b))</small>		Attorney Docket No. 201940US25; Client Ref: PIP-68-MOUN	
		First Inventor or Application Identifier JEFFREY R. MOUNT	
		Title METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ACCUMULATING COUPON VALUES IN AN ACCOUNT FOR FUTURE REDEMPTIONS	
JC803 U.S. PTO 		Assignee Name: SuperMarkets Online, Inc. Assignee Address: 500 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830	
03/15/01 APPLICATION ELEMENTS See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents		ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box Patent Application Washington, DC 20231	
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form (e.g. PTO/SB/17) (Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing) 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Total Sheets 21 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) Total Sheets 7 (FORMAL) 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oath or Declaration Total Pages 6 a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newly executed (original or copy) b. <input type="checkbox"/> Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. §1.63(d)) (for continuation / divisional w/ box 17 completed) i. <input type="checkbox"/> DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b). 5. <input type="checkbox"/> CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Form (CRF) b. Specification or Sequence Listing on: i. <input type="checkbox"/> CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Paper c. <input type="checkbox"/> Statements verifying identity of above copies		ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s)) (4 pages) 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76 9. <input type="checkbox"/> 37 C.F.R. §3.73(b) Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney (when there is an assignee) 10. <input type="checkbox"/> English Translation Document (if applicable) 11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copies of IDS Citations (16) 12. <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White Advance Serial No. Postcard 14. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed) 15. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27 16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Petition to Make Special Under M.P.E.P. § 708.02(VIII)	
17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below: <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Divisional <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application no.: Prior application information: Examiner: Group Art Unit:			
For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation <u>can only</u> be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.			
18. Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence: <input type="checkbox"/> This application is a <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Division <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation-in-part (CIP) of application Serial No. Filed on <input type="checkbox"/> Which was published in English <input type="checkbox"/> Which was not published in English <input type="checkbox"/> This application claims priority of provisional application Serial No. Filed			
19. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS  22850 (703) 413-3000 FACSIMILE: (703) 413-2220			

Name:	Robert C. Mattson	Registration No.:	42,850
Signature:			Date: 3-14-01
Name:		Registration No.:	

Docket No. 201940US25
Client Ref: PIP-68-MOUN

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR(S) JEFFREY R. MOUNT ET AL

SERIAL NO: NEW APPLICATION

FILING DATE: HEREWITH

FOR: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ACCUMULATING COUPON VALUES IN AN ACCOUNT FOR FUTURE REDEMPTION

FEE TRANSMITTAL

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	CALCULATIONS
TOTAL CLAIMS	34 - 20 =	14	× \$18 =	\$252.00
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	3 - 3 =	0	× \$80 =	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS (If applicable)			+ \$270 =	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> LATE FILING OF DECLARATION			+ \$130 =	\$0.00
BASIC FEE				\$710.00
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS				\$962.00
<input type="checkbox"/> REDUCTION BY 50% FOR FILING BY SMALL ENTITY				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> FILING IN NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE			+ \$130 =	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RECORDATION OF ASSIGNMENT			+ \$40 =	\$40.00
TOTAL				\$1,002.00

- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 15-0030 in the amount of _____ A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$1,132.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Robert C. Mattson
Registration No. 42,850

Date:

3-14-01
Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 10/00)



22850

201940US25
Client Ref: PIP-68-MOUN

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
JEFFREY R. MOUNT ET AL : GROUP:
SERIAL NO.: NEW APPLICATION : EXAMINER:
FILED: HEREWITH :

FOR: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR
ACCUMULATING COUPON
VALUES IN AN ACCOUNT FOR
FUTURE REDEMPTION

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER M.P.E.P. § 708.02(VIII)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

I. Basis For the Petition

Pursuant to MPEP § 708.02(VIII) (7th ed.1998, Rev. 1, Feb. 2000), applicants hereby
petition for a special status for this application.

II. Requirements for Granting Special Status

MPEP § 708.02(VIII) provides five requirements for a grant of special status. The
following subsections show that each of these five requirements is met.

A. Submit Petition and Fee: § 708.02(VIII)(A)

This petition is accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(i).

B. Agree to an Election Without Traverse: § 708.02(VIII)(B)

Applicants submit that all claims are directed to a single, patentable invention.

However, should the Office determine that all the claims presented are not directed to a single
invention, applicants agree to elect the largest group of claims that includes claim 1.



**C. State that a Pre-examination Search Was Made:
§ 708.02(VIII)(C)**

A preexamination search was made and included a search of the following classes and subclasses: (1) class 705, subclasses 14 and 26; and (2) class 235, subclasses 375, 381, and 383. Examiner J. Trammell of Art Unit 2764 was consulted regarding the field of search.

**D. Submit a Copy of the Most Relevant References:
§ 708.02(VIII)(D)**

One copy each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims are submitted with the information disclosure statement filed herewith.

**E. Submit a Detailed Discussion of the References, Pointing
Out How the Claimed Subject Matter is Patentable Over
the References: § 708.02(VIII)(E)**

Each of the independent claims includes features not taught or suggested by the references deemed most relevant to the claims.

Claim 1 is directed to a computer-implemented method that includes the step of storing consumer identifiers and account identifiers such that each consumer identifier maps to one of the account identifiers, each consumer identifier corresponding to a consumer and each account identifier corresponding to a points account of a consumer. Transaction information is received at a point-of-sale in response to a transaction between one of the consumers and a retailer, the transaction information including one of the consumer identifiers and coupon information of unrelated coupons. The consumer's points account is identified from the received one of the consumer identifiers based on the stored consumer identifiers and the stored account identifiers. Values of unrelated coupons are converted to points, and the points account of the consumer is credited with the points. Claims 11 and 19 define systems for performing a method substantially the same as defined by Claim 1.

U.S. Patent No. 5,471,669 to Lidman describes a coupon savings account system for transferring coupon amounts from a store account to a purchaser's account to be used for educational or other purposes. However, U.S. Patent No. 5,471,669 fails to teach or suggest a computer-implemented method that includes steps of (A) storing consumer identifiers and account identifiers such that each consumer identifier maps to one of the account identifiers, each consumer identifier corresponding to a consumer and each account identifier corresponding to a points account of a consumer; (B) receiving transaction information at a point-of-sale (POS) in response to a transaction between one of the consumers and a retailer, the transaction information including one of the consumer identifiers and coupon information of unrelated coupons; (C) identifying the consumer's points account from the received one of the consumer identifiers, based on the stored consumer identifiers and the stored account identifiers; (D) converting values of the unrelated coupons to points; and (E) crediting the points account of the consumer with the points as recited in Claim 1.

U.S. Patent No. 5,970,480 to Kalina describes an interchange system that communicates accumulated credit awards to a credit award exchange that processes the conversion of credit awards into the purchase of mutual funds and/or an investment vehicle of the award account holder's choice. However, U.S. Patent No. 5,970,480 fails to teach or suggest (A) storing consumer identifiers and account identifiers such that each consumer identifier maps to one of the account identifiers, each consumer identifier corresponding to a consumer and each account identifier corresponding to a points account of a consumer; (B) receiving transaction information at a point-of-sale (POS) in response to a transaction between one of the consumers and a retailer, the transaction information including one of the consumer identifiers and coupon information of unrelated coupons; (C) identifying the consumer's points account from the received one of the consumer identifiers, based on the

stored consumer identifiers and the stored account identifiers; (D) converting values of the unrelated coupons to points; and (E) crediting the points account of the consumer with the points as recited in Claim 1.

U.S. Patent No. 5,991,736 to Ferguson et al. discloses a means for transferring monetary funds equal to the incentive award amount from an incentive award pool to a customer's retirement account. However, U.S. Patent No. 5,991,736 fails to teach or suggest (A) storing consumer identifiers and account identifiers such that each consumer identifier maps to one of the account identifiers, each consumer identifier corresponding to a consumer and each account identifier corresponding to a points account of a consumer; (B) receiving transaction information at a point-of-sale (POS) in response to a transaction between one of the consumers and a retailer, the transaction information including one of the consumer identifiers and coupon information of unrelated coupons; (C) identifying the consumer's points account from the received one of the consumer identifiers, based on the stored consumer identifiers and the stored account identifiers; (D) converting values of the unrelated coupons to points; and (E) crediting the points account of the consumer with the points as recited in Claim 1.

Therefore, independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2-10 are believed to patentably distinguish over each of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,471,669; 5,970,480; 5,991,736. Independent Claims 11 and 19 each define a system with components that perform a method substantially similar to that defined by Claim 1. Accordingly, independent Claims 11 and 19 and dependent Claims 12-18 and 20-26 are believed to patentably distinguish over the applied references for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

III. Conclusion

The petition to make special should be granted. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that this application be advanced out of turn for examination.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Mattson
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 42,850



22850

Tel. No. (703) 413-3000

Fax #: (703) 413-2220

RCM/djn

Printed: March 14, 2001 (9:58AM)

I:\atty\RCM\Catalina\201940 Coupon Account\201940.PetSpecial.wpd